

Tram-cable woes strand 80 above Bridal Veil Falls

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PROVO CANYON — About 80 people were stranded on the cliffs above Bridal Veil Falls Sunday night when the tram that had taken them to the viewpoint above the Provo River was declared unsafe by owners of the canyon tourist attraction.

The Utah County Sheriff's Department reported two minor injuries, neither of which required treatment.

A sheriff's department dispatcher said she understood a cable had broken on the tram.

Tourists waited above Bridal Veil Falls for up to 1½ hours until they were airlifted to safety.

The problem with the cable could have been caused by high winds that had been blowing through the canyon throughout the day, said Cleon Talbot, a security official for the company that operates the tram. "They immediately discontinued using the tram and called in two helicopters to bring the 80 or so people off the mountain."

But U.S. National Weather Service officials said no significantly high winds were reported Sunday.

"Based on all the information I have, I can't conceive of any winds being stronger than 50 mph at the mountaintop level. That shouldn't shut the thing down," said National Weather Service Forecaster Rick Watling.

The state's strongest reported surface winds gusted up to 45 mph in Vernal between 5 and 6 p.m. But there is not perfect correlation among wind speeds in different regions throughout the state, Watling said.

The Utah County Sheriff's Department helped set up a

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